

Bonanza of gift books

By VINCENT EGAN
Thomson News Service

The Christmas gift of last resort may well be a book. It can easily be a first choice, of course, but if you find yourself otherwise bereft of inspiration it's probably the most dependable solution.

Here is a round-up of notes on some of the more interesting books of this year in publishing:

—**Lions In Winter**, by Chris Goyens and Allan Turowetz (Prentice-Hall Canada; 415 pages; \$19.95). An anecdote-filled history of the world's champion Montreal Canadiens, told from the perspective of a sportswriter (Goyens) and a sociologist. No sports fans are more loyal than those of the Habs, now a 76-year-old dynasty - and those fans will relish this insiders' look at the players, coaches and managers of a unique team.

—**A Beginner's Guide to Canadian Humor**, edited by Lynette Stokes and Pamela Chiehn-skas (Eden Press; 144 pages; \$9.95). If your idea of fun is to stick in the dagger of satire, then twist it, you will enjoy this "guide" with its parody of an Eaton's flyer, a report on a royal visit to Canada, and the purported memoirs of Pierre Elliot Trudeau. Lots of laughs.

—**Letters I've Been Meaning to Write**, by Allan Gould (Fitzhenry and Whiteside; 165 pages; \$9.95 paperback). Telling off those thoughtless people who bug you so much - that's catharsis like Shakespeare used to make. Toronto-based humorist Gould airs out a multitude of his pet peeves in this collection of 100 witty, yet biting, imaginary missives - to the secretary who puts him on "Hold" interminably, to people who send him photocopies circulars in lieu of Christmas cards, to the travel agent who booked him into a Caribbean flea-trap, and, of course, to an airline president.

—**Fathers**, edited by Alexandra Towle (Eden Press; 256 pages; \$24.95). This is an entertaining yet thought-provoking anthology of writings about (and sometimes by) fathers, from George VI to Josef Stalin, from Oliva Dionne to Mordecai Richler. The author was fortunate in her choice of father and step-

father, but a surprising number of her literary entries are by children who hated theirs. Nevertheless, it's a collection that fathers, especially, will probably find themselves quoting from at every opportunity - and so, too, will their offspring.

—**The Railway Station: A Social History**, by Jeffrey Richards and John M. MacKenzie (Oxford University Press; 440 pages; \$29.95). Whatever the future may hold for passenger rail service, the era of the great railway stations is in eclipse in most parts of the world. Stations, and the adjacent railway hotels, constitute a significant and colorful branch of architecture, and their mystique is ably captured here by two British academics, both historians of popular culture. Their scope is worldwide, as is the public interest in these symbols of nationhood - too many of which have already disappeared.

—**Chef and Doctor on the Run**, by Doug and Diane Clement (Stalcoast; 168 pages, spiral-bound; \$14.95). This is a unique husband-and-wife collaboration: Doug Clement is a sports-medicine doctor with a special interest in nutrition, and Diane Clement is a former Olympic athlete and the author (on her own) of two popular cook books. Here, he offers valuable advice about maintaining good health by self-discipline in such matters as exercise, smoking and caffeine intake, and she supplies the glamorous menus for successful dinners.

—**Faye Levy's Chocolate Sensations** (HPBooks Inc.; 208 pages; \$15). Decidedly not for the self-disciplined and strong-willed, this is a show-stopping assemblage of some 150 recipes for chocolate desserts, both classical and innovative, written in clear and simple terms. Levy, a well known U.S. food writer, offers chapters on each aspect of chocolate creations - cakes, pastries, pies, mousses, souffles, cookies, ice cream and so on.

—**Dinah's Cupboard Cook Book**, by Dinah Koo and Janice Poon (Collins; 208 pages; \$18.95). Here is an advanced course in food preparation from the proprietor of an up-market Toronto shop specializing in exotic spices and condiments.



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